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Typed or Printed Name		Teri Muir	
Signature		<i>Teri Muir</i>	Date MAR. 13, 2002
AMENDMENT Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111 Address to: Commissioner for Patents Washington, D.C. 20231		Attorney Docket	GUID-012CON
		First Named Inventor	Lawrence W. Hu, <i>et al.</i>
		Application Number	09/900,503
		Filing Date	July 6, 2001
		Group Art Unit	3732
		Examiner Name	Jeffery A. Smith
		Title	SURGICAL RETRACTOR PLATFORM BLADE APPARATUS

Sir:

This amendment is responsive to the Office Action dated December 13, 2001 for which a three-month period for response was given, making this response due on or before March 13, 2002. Accordingly, this response is timely filed.

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TOLSON

In view of the following, reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

IN THE SPECIFICATION

On page 1, line 2, please insert the following new paragraph:

(New) This application is a continuation of Application Serial No. 09/305,811, now issued as U.S. Patent No. 6,331,158.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 29, line 3 as with the following:

(Amended) Suture lock 80 may be biased towards the locked position, preferably using a small spring between the suture lock and the recess 75. In a preferred embodiment, a piece of resilient closed cell foam 89 is fixed to body 83 to provide the desired biasing effect. Free end 84 may optionally have a number of teeth or ridges 82 to ensure acceptable traction against the suture material.

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